

# Institut Simone de Beauvoir Institute

of  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

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S U M M E R 1986

## THE CONCEPT OF WOMEN IN WESTERN THOUGHT

Instructor: Sr. Prudence ALLEN

Time: T.Th. 7:00 - 10:10 p.m.

Place: T.B.A. - LOYOLA

DATE : MAY 13 - JUNE 10, 1986

This course will highlight some of the major 'break through theorists' in ancient and modern western thought about the concept of woman. It will approach these women and men from an interdisciplinary perspective seeking to evaluate the structure of the arguments about sex identity and considering their impact on contemporary issues surrounding the concept of woman in relation to man.

The theorists to be considered will include the following:

Plato

Aristotle

Hildegard of Bingen

Christine de Pisan

Poulain de la Barre

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Mary Wollstonecraft

Students will be able to write their research paper on other theorists than those considered in the seminar.

The themes considered will be the Greek origins of the theory of sex unity (unisex) and sex polarity (that one sex is superior to the other), the medieval origins of sex complementarity (that the sexes are significantly different but neither is inherently superior to the other), the debate about sex identity in the humanist tradition, the influence on arguments about equality by the cartesians, the reassertion of polarity arguments in the enlightenment tradition, and the initial formulation of the arguments about rights.

In all of these considerations we will be concerned with how these historical 'breakthrough theorists' have set the stage for contemporary discussion of the concept of woman.

For further information on the Women's Studies programme please call us at 848-2370.

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